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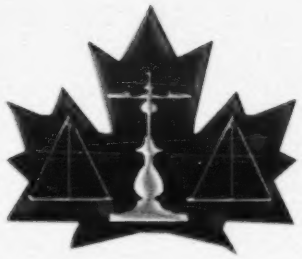
Homicide in Canada, 2015



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Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics

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..	not available for a specific reference period
...	not applicable
0	true zero or a value rounded to zero
0^s	value rounded to 0 (zero) where there is a meaningful distinction between true zero and the value that was rounded
^{p}	preliminary
^{r}	revised
x	suppressed to meet the confidentiality requirements of the *Statistics Act*
^{E}	use with caution
F	too unreliable to be published
*	significantly different from reference category ($p < 0.05$)

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Homicide in Canada, 2015

by Leah Mulligan, Marsha Axford and André Solecki

Homicides continue to account for a small proportion of all police-reported violent *Criminal Code* offences in Canada, representing 0.2% in 2015.[1] While homicide continues to be a relatively rare occurrence in Canada, rates of homicide are considered benchmarks for levels of violent activity both in Canada and internationally (Ouimet 2014). Further, perceptions of safety within communities may be influenced by their homicide rates (Romer et al. 2003).

Since 1961, police services have been reporting detailed information on homicide occurrences in Canada through Statistics Canada's Homicide Survey. Using data drawn from the Homicide Survey, this *Juristat* article explores prevalence and characteristics of homicide incidents, victims, and accused persons reported in 2015, and compares these findings to short and long term trends. A special analysis of the circumstances surrounding homicides of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal females committed by 'casual acquaintances' from 1980 to 2015 is also presented (see Text box 1).

Number and rate of homicides at their highest point since 2011

- Police reported 604 homicide victims in Canada in 2015, 83 more than the previous year and the highest number of homicides reported since 2011.[2] The homicide rate (1.68 per 100,000 population) increased 15% from the previous year marking the highest homicide rate since 2011 (Chart 1). This was also the largest percentage increase in the annual homicide rate reported in Canada since 1975. The 2015 homicide rate however was 2% lower than the average for the previous decade (Chart 2).
- Attempted murders also grew in 2015 (Allen 2016). Police reported 144 more attempted murders compared to 2014 (from 630 in 2014 to 774 in 2015), and the rate increased 22% from the previous year (2.16 per 100,000 population compared to 1.77). The rate of attempted murder has remained consistently higher than the homicide rate since the 1980s, and these offences have often shown similar trends over time (Chart 1).
- In 2015, police reported 572 incidents of homicide, the majority involving a single victim (95%). There were 21 incidents involving two victims (4%), and the remaining 5 incidents involved either three or four victims (less than 1%). This pattern has been consistent since homicide data collection began in 1961.
- In 2015, police reported solving 75% (451) of the total 604 reported homicides (see Text box 2). There were a reported total of 525 accused persons identified in these homicides.

Among the provinces Saskatchewan reported the highest homicide rate in 2015

- The higher number of homicides for 2015 was primarily due to increases in Alberta (+27 homicides), Saskatchewan (+19), and Ontario (+18) (Table 1a). The increased number of reported homicides in Alberta and Saskatchewan occurred primarily outside of census metropolitan areas (CMAs).[3] Within Ontario, however, half of the increase occurred within various CMAs.
- Saskatchewan recorded the highest homicide rate among the provinces (3.79 homicides per 100,000 population). The next two highest provincial rates were recorded in Manitoba (3.63) and in Alberta (3.17) (Table 1b).
- Nova Scotia recorded a large increase in their homicide rate (+100%) with 12 homicides reported in 2015. It should be noted, however, that the large increase is due to the record low rate that was recorded in 2014 with 6 homicides that year (Table 1b).
- The rate of homicides per 100,000 population tends to be more variable from year to year within the Territories, in part due to their smaller population counts. This was true in 2015 with 5 homicides in the Northwest Territories (11.34 per 100,000 population), two homicides in Nunavut (5.42), and one homicide in Yukon (2.67) (Table 1b). Of note, the 2015 homicide rate in Nunavut was the lowest reported rate since becoming a territory in 1999.
- The lowest homicide rates in 2015 were reported in Newfoundland and Labrador (0.57 per 100,000 population), Prince Edward Island (0.68), and Quebec (0.93) (Table 1b).

Regina records the highest homicide rate among census metropolitan areas

- With a total of 8 homicides in 2015, Regina recorded the highest homicide rate among the 33 CMAs (3.30 homicides per 100,000 population).[4] Saskatoon (with 10 homicides) and Edmonton (with 39 homicides) recorded the next highest homicide rates (at 3.22 and 2.87 per 100,000 population, respectively). Brantford was the only CMA to report no homicides in 2015 (Table 2).

Homicide rates continue to be higher for Aboriginal people than for non-Aboriginal people

- Aboriginal people accounted for 25% of homicide victims in 2015, compared to 23% in 2014[5] (see CANSIM table 253-0009). In total, police reported 148 Aboriginal victims of homicide in 2015 compared to 120 in 2014 (Table 3). Aboriginal people represented an estimated 5% of the Canadian population in 2015 (Statistics Canada 2015).
- In 2015, the rate of homicide for Aboriginal people increased by 20% to 8.77 Aboriginal victims per 100,000 Aboriginal people, from 7.30 in 2014[6] (Table 3). In comparison, the rate of homicide among non-Aboriginal people increased 13% from 1.17 non-Aboriginal victims per 100,000 non-Aboriginal people to 1.31. Overall, the rate of homicide for Aboriginal people in 2015 was about seven times higher than for non-Aboriginal people.
- Aboriginal males were more frequently victims of homicide compared to non-Aboriginal males. In 2015, the rate of homicide for Aboriginal males was seven times that for non-Aboriginal males (12.85 per 100,000 population compared to 1.87). Further, the rate for Aboriginal males was three times that for Aboriginal females (12.85 compared to 4.80).
- Amongst female victims, the rate of homicide of Aboriginal females was six times that of non-Aboriginal females (4.80 per 100,000 compared to 0.77). Of note, the rate for Aboriginal females was higher than the rate for non-Aboriginal males (4.80 compared to 1.87) (Table 3). These findings are consistent with those reported in 2014.
- In 2015, police reported solving a higher proportion of homicides of Aboriginal victims within the reporting year, than those of non-Aboriginal victims (85% compared to 71%). The proportion of homicides solved by police were comparable between Aboriginal male and Aboriginal female victims (86% and 83%). Within non-Aboriginal homicides however, police reported solving two thirds (66%) of male homicides, while solving 85% of female homicides.
- Where the Aboriginal identity of the accused was reported for the 525 accused identified in solved homicide cases, 33% were identified as Aboriginal persons, and 67% were non-Aboriginal persons[7] (see CANSIM table 253-0010). Further, the rate of Aboriginal persons accused of homicide was 10.13 persons for every 100,000 Aboriginal people. This rate was 10 times higher than the rate of accused among non-Aboriginal people (1.01) (Table 3). This is equal to the finding for the rate of accused persons by Aboriginal identity reported in the previous year.
- In 2015, there were 61 female persons accused homicide, and 37 were Aboriginal (61%) while 24 were non-Aboriginal (39%). The rate of Aboriginal females accused of homicide was 31 times higher than rate of non-Aboriginal female accused (4.33 per 100,000 population compared to 0.14). For the 464 males accused persons, 134 (29%) were Aboriginal and 321 (69%) were non-Aboriginal. For rate for Aboriginal male accused was about 8 times higher than the rate for non-Aboriginal male accused (16.09 per 100,000 compared to 1.90) (Table 3).

Female homicide victims more likely than male victims to have been reported as a missing person

- In 2015, police services were asked for the first time to report the missing person status of homicide victims to the Homicide Survey (see Text box 3). Of the 604 homicides reported in 2015, 63 (10%) were on record as a missing person at the time the homicide became known to the police.
- Female victims were reported as a missing person prior to the discovery of their death two and half times more often than their male counterparts (18% of female victims, compared to 7% of male victims). Those less than 12 years old were most frequently previously reported as a missing person (30% of victims under 12), while those least frequently reported as missing were those aged 65 and older (2% of victims aged 65 and older).
- Proportions of victims previously reported as missing were similar regardless of whether the victim was Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal. Overall, 10% of Aboriginal victims were previously reported as missing compared to 11% of non-Aboriginal victims. This was true for 17% of Aboriginal female victims and 18% of non-Aboriginal female victims. For males, 7% of Aboriginal male victims were on record as a missing person, as were 8% of non-Aboriginal male victims (Chart 3).

Number of firearm-related homicides increases for second consecutive year

- In 2015, stabbings continued to be the most common method of committing homicide in Canada (37%), followed by shootings (30%) and beatings (23%). These proportions are similar to those reported over the past 10 years (Table 4, Chart 4).
- For the second year in a row, police reported an increase in the number and rate of firearm-related homicides. In 2015, there were 178 firearm-related homicides, 23 more than the previous year (Table 5). The rate of firearm-related homicides in 2015 increased by 14% to 0.50 per 100,000 population (compared to 0.44 in 2014), and was the highest reported rate since 2010 (0.51). This finding is consistent with the reported 22% increase in rate for all violent firearms offences from the previous year (Allen 2016).[8]

- Handguns were used in 57% of firearm-related homicides in 2015, and they continue to be the most frequently used type of firearm. This proportion is down from 2014, where handguns accounted for 67% of firearm-related homicides. The rate of handgun-related homicides remained relatively stable at 0.28 per 100,000 population in 2015 (compared to 0.29 in 2014). Of note, the number of homicides committed with sawed-off rifles or shotguns increased to 23 (+17), accounting for 13% of firearm-related homicides in 2015, up from 4% in 2014 (Table 5). Thus, the rate of sawed-off rifle or shotgun-related homicides increased from 0.02 per 100,000 population to 0.06 in 2015.
- The highest rates of firearm-related homicide were reported in Yukon and the Northwest Territories (2.67 and 2.27 per 100,000 population respectively). Alberta reported the next highest rate at 1.17 per 100,000. The rate of firearm homicides grew the most, however, in Saskatchewan, moving up from 0.36 per 100,000 in 2014 to 0.97 in 2015.
- Across the provinces in 2015, increases in the number of firearm-related homicides from 2014 were reported in Alberta (+13), Saskatchewan (+7), Manitoba (+3), and Ontario (+3) (Table 4). All other provinces and territories reported relatively stable numbers of firearm-related homicides from the previous year.
- Among the CMAs, the majority of firearm-related homicides were reported in Toronto (27), Montréal (20), Calgary (16), Edmonton (15), and Vancouver (15) (Table 6). For these CMAs in particular, the proportion of total homicides which were related to firearms ranged from about 30% to 40% of their total homicides in 2015. Calgary reported the largest increase in firearm-related homicides (+13), and this accounted for more than half (57%) of the total increase in firearm-related homicides in Canada in 2015. In comparison, all firearm-related homicides occurring outside CMAs contributed towards 39% of the total increase in that year. Other notable changes reported in the number of firearm-related homicides from 2014 were reported in Montréal (+5), Toronto (-10), and Edmonton (-5). For the other CMAs, the number remained comparable in 2015 to the previous year.
- In 2015, 44% of firearm-related homicides were also related to gang activity,[9] which has been the case in general for the past five years.[10] Alberta recorded an increase of 14 (+26%) firearm-related homicides that were gang-related in 2015; the majority occurring in Calgary and Edmonton CMAs (+7 and +3 respectively). Saskatchewan reported a large decrease in the proportion of firearm-related homicides that involved gangs, moving from 75% of their reported firearm related homicides in 2014, to 18% in 2015.

Gang-related homicides increased in 2015 following a three year decline

- In 2015, police reported 98 gang-related homicides, up 16 from the previous year. The rate increased by 18% to 0.27 per 100,000 population (from 0.23 in 2014). This follows a period of decline in the rate of gang-related homicides from 2011 to 2014 (Chart 5).
- The total increase in the number of gang-related homicides in Canada was reported mostly in Alberta, where the number went up by 19 gang-related homicides from 2014, for a total of 28 gang-related homicides in 2015. Of the increased number of gang-related homicides in Alberta (19), more than two-thirds (68%) occurred in the CMAs of Calgary and Edmonton, and the remainder (32%) within Alberta's non-CMA areas. In Alberta, gangs were involved in 22% of homicides in 2015, compared to 9% the previous year.
- Despite an increase in the number of homicides in Saskatchewan and Ontario, gang-related homicides did not appear to account for the increase in these provinces. In Saskatchewan, gangs were involved in 12% of homicides in 2015 compared to 25% in 2014. In Ontario, 13% of homicides in 2015 were gang-related compared to 15% the previous year.
- In Newfoundland and Labrador, the province's 2 homicides reported in 2014 were both gang related, yet in 2015 none of their 3 reported homicides were gang related. In addition, none of Nova Scotia's 12 homicides in 2015 were gang related, compared to 17% in 2014. In all other provinces and territories, the proportion of homicides related to gangs remained relatively stable from the previous year.
- Within CMAs, gang-related homicides were reported most frequently in 2015 in Montréal (20), Vancouver (13), Toronto (12), and Calgary (12), which combined account for 73% of the total gang-related homicides reported within CMAs (Table 6).

Fewer homicides committed by strangers, more by criminal associates

- Despite the increased number of victims reported in 2015, increases were not equal across all types of homicides when considering relationship types. Relationship information is available for solved homicides for which an accused has been identified. Decades of relationship information indicates that homicides are frequently committed by someone known to the victim.[11] In 2015, 87% of victims knew the accused involved in their death (Table 7). This proportion increased from 2014 where a reported 82% of victims knew the accused.[12]
- The number of victims killed by a stranger in 2015 declined to 58, from 73 reported in 2014. As such homicides committed by strangers accounted for 13% of homicides in 2015 compared to 18% the year before (Table 7). In comparison, police reported an increase in the number of homicides committed by a person with whom the victim had a criminal relationship (54 in 2015 compared to 29 in 2014).

- Increases were also reported in the number of homicides committed by family members other than current or ex-spouses or common law partners. These homicides increased from 73 to 99 in 2015. This was largely due to an increase in homicides committed by extended family members (Table 7).
- There were 83 intimate partner homicides reported in Canada in 2015, 3 less than in 2014 (Table 7). The rate of intimate partner homicides remained relatively stable in 2015 at 0.28 per 100,000 population aged 15 and older, which followed a reported increase in the previous year. The rate of female intimate partner homicide remained unchanged from 2014 (0.46 per 100,000 population for both years); while that for males decrease slightly from 0.11 in the previous year to 0.09 in 2015.

Majority of homicide victims and accused persons were male

- Overall, males account for the majority of both homicide victims and accused persons. In 2015, 71% of homicide victims and 88% of homicide accused were male, findings that have remained consistent over the past 10 years.
- Rates of homicide among male victims were highest for those 25 to 34 years of age (4.38 per 100,000 population), followed by 18 to 24 year olds (4.29). For females, the highest homicide rate was reported for those aged 18 to 24 years (1.46), followed closely by females aged 25 to 34 years (1.41) (see CANSIM table 253-0003).
- The rate of accused persons amongst the male population in 2015 was highest for those 18 to 24 years of age (8.80 per 100,000 population). Among females, the rate of being accused of homicide in 2015 was highest for those aged 25 to 34 years (0.89).

Increase in number and rate of youth accused of homicide from previous year

- In 2015, youth aged 12 to 17 accounted for 7% of the 525 accused persons reported in that year. This is consistent with findings reported over the past 4 years, where the proportion of youth accused has accounted for less than 10% of the total accused persons (see CANSIM table 253-0003).
- The rate of youth accused of homicide increased, however, by 22% from the previous year. Police reported in 2015 that there were 1.51 youth accused of homicide for every 100,000 youth aged 12 to 17 in Canada, compared with a rate of 1.24 in 2014. Overall, there were 35 youth accused of homicide in 2015, 6 more than the previous year.
- Youth accused of homicide in 2015 were two times more likely to be involved in a gang-related incident compared to adults (20% of youth accused compared to 10% of adults accused).[13]

Accused persons aged 65 and older most likely to have a suspected mental or developmental disorder

- In 2015, police suspected 85 persons accused of homicide as having a mental or developmental disorder,[14] representing 17% of total accused persons.[15] This is lower than the proportion in 2014 (21%), however it is comparable to the average over the previous ten years from 2005 to 2014 (16%).
- Seniors aged 65 and older accounted for the largest proportion (36%) of accused persons with suspected mental health or developmental disorders in 2015 (Chart 6). In comparison, those aged 55 to 64 accounted for the lowest proportion (11%), which is contrary to previous findings where the lowest proportion has typically been present amongst younger age groups. Further, according to the average over the previous ten years, the presence of mental or developmental disorders among accused persons has been shown to increase with age.

Text box 1
Female homicides committed by 'casual acquaintances'

The incidence of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls is a significant issue in Canada (Government of Canada 2015; Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada 2016). While statistics are emerging on the issue (Miladinovic and Mulligan 2015; Royal Canadian Mounted Police 2014; Royal Canadian Mounted Police 2015), additional information will assist to further understand and address it. For instance, according to homicide records from 1980 to 2015, police reported that 18% of Aboriginal female victims and 11% of non-Aboriginal female victims were killed by a 'casual acquaintance'. To better understand the circumstances surrounding homicides of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal females committed by casual acquaintances, special analysis of these records from 1980 to 2015 was conducted.

For this analysis, police-reported narratives included on the Homicide Survey were examined. Specifically, narratives were examined for every female homicide victim reported by police between 1980 and 2015 and who was killed by a casual acquaintance.[16] The completion of the narrative, as well as the extent of the details provided, are optional for police filling out the questionnaire.

As of 2015, the Homicide Survey describes the relationship category of 'casual acquaintance' as a person known to the victim and with whom the victim did not have a romantic, sexual, or close friendship and whose relationship cannot be better described by another 'acquaintance' relationship type collected on the survey (i.e., close friend, neighbour, authority figure, business relationship or criminal relationship). Roommates and fellow inmates with no close personal friendship are included in the definition of casual acquaintance. It is important to note that some relationship types currently collected by the Homicide Survey were introduced in different years, therefore they may not have been available for selection by police when reporting the relationship type for the incidents that were examined.

Of the 6,230 female victims of homicide between 1980 and 2015, 12% or 748 were reported as being killed by a 'casual acquaintance'.[17, 18] Close to one-quarter (24%) of these female victims killed by a casual acquaintance were Aboriginal[19] (Table 8).

For about half of the victims (52% or 390), the police narratives provided enough information to allow for further analysis of the nature and context of the 'casual acquaintance' relationship between accused and victim. Overall, 17% of the accused-victim relationships could be better described by an existing relationship type collected by the Homicide Survey (e.g., neighbour, or other intimate partner) and in 35% of cases, new categories were created to better describe the relationship. In 48% of cases, the relationship of the accused to the victim did not change from 'casual acquaintance', either because the information provided in the narratives was sufficient to conclude that the relationship was best described as 'casual acquaintance', or because the narrative did not offer sufficient details to determine in greater detail the nature of the relationship between accused and victim.[20]

Overall, 18% of the 748 victims were killed by what can be described as a 'co-substance user', which means their relationship, as determined by the narrative, was based solely on the co-consumption of alcohol, drugs or other intoxicating substances immediately prior to the homicide (Table 8). Homicides that occurred between co-substance users tended to happen in bars, private residences or a public outdoor location.[21] The co-substance user relationship was more common among Aboriginal females killed by a casual acquaintance (38%) than among non-Aboriginal females (12%). The vast majority of these victims were adults, however youth aged 12 to 17 comprised a higher proportion of non-Aboriginal female victims (16% versus 84% of adults) than Aboriginal female victims (7% versus 93% of adults).

Of the victims and accused who were co-substance users prior to the victim's death, 39% of the homicides occurred after they left the location where they had been consuming substances together (e.g., the accused and victim went to one of their homes after a party, or had stopped at another location). While this was true for one-quarter (27%) of homicides of Aboriginal victims, half (51%) of non-Aboriginal victims had left the location of co-substance use with the accused prior to their deaths.[22]

Between 1980 and 2015, 6% of female victims of a casual acquaintance were killed by an 'other' non-family household member, (e.g., roommates, boarders who were not paying rent or "couch surfers").[23] This type of relationship was reported for 3% of Aboriginal female victims compared to 6% of non-Aboriginal female victims.

For 4% of victims of a casual acquaintance, the accused was a fellow resident in an institutional setting, such as a hospital or nursing home.[24] The proportion was higher among non-Aboriginal female victims compared to Aboriginal female victims (5% versus 1%). Moreover, a higher proportion of non-Aboriginal female victims of a casual acquaintance were killed by a neighbour (6% versus 1%).

Other types of 'casual acquaintance' relationships identified within the special analysis included a partner or ex-partner of a family member (3%) (excludes a partner or ex-partner of the victim's parent[25]). The prevalence of this type of relationship was similar for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal female victims. However, a slightly higher proportion of Aboriginal female victims of a casual acquaintance were killed by a partner or ex-partner of the person with whom the victim was having or had previously had a sexual relationship (3% versus 1%).[26]

The special analysis presented here was a collaborative effort between the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics and the Department of Justice Canada. The review of records and the analysis was conducted by André Solecki and Marsha Axford of the Department of Justice Canada, Research and Statistics Division.

Text box 2
Solved status of homicides collected by the Homicide Survey

A homicide incident is considered solved (or 'cleared'[27]) when police report laying or recommending a charge of homicide against at least one accused person. Police may also report solving homicides by other means (e.g., the suicide of the accused person). Where there are multiple victims involved in a single homicide incident, the solved status of the incident applies to each victim. In incidents where there are multiple accused persons involved, a homicide is considered solved on the date when the first accused person in the case is identified by police.

Homicides may be solved months to years after they occur, and the Homicide Survey collects updates for previously reported homicides to revise the solved status, and to allow for the collection of additional details gathered throughout homicide investigations, if applicable. In all cases, the Homicide Survey reports the number of solved homicides according to the year in which the incident came to the attention of police and was reported to the Homicide Survey.

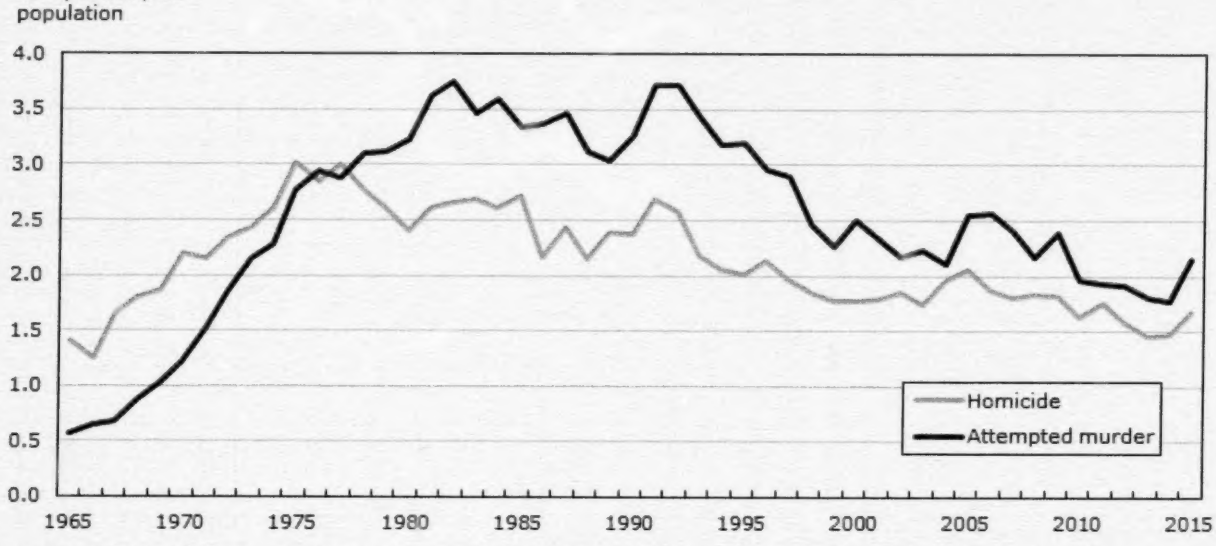
Since the Homicide Survey is a police-reported source of data, it does not track court-related outcomes for homicide incidents such as decisions put forth by Crown Attorneys, convictions, or sentencing-related information. For further information related to court decisions for homicide charges brought before the adult criminal court system in Canada, please refer to the *Juristat* report, "Adult criminal court statistics in Canada, 2013/2014" (Maxwell 2015) or CANSIM table 252-0053.

Text box 3
Victims reported by police as a missing person prior to their deaths

As of the 2015 reporting year, police are asked by the Homicide Survey to report whether victims were previously reported as missing persons prior to the discovery of their homicides. Specifically, the survey question asks whether the victim had been reported as a missing person to their police service, or any other police service in Canada. Victims reported as a previously missing person must have had a missing person report filed and active at the time when the victim was discovered. In 2015, police reported the missing person status of the victim for the majority of reported homicides, with less than 1% which were reported as 'unknown' by police.

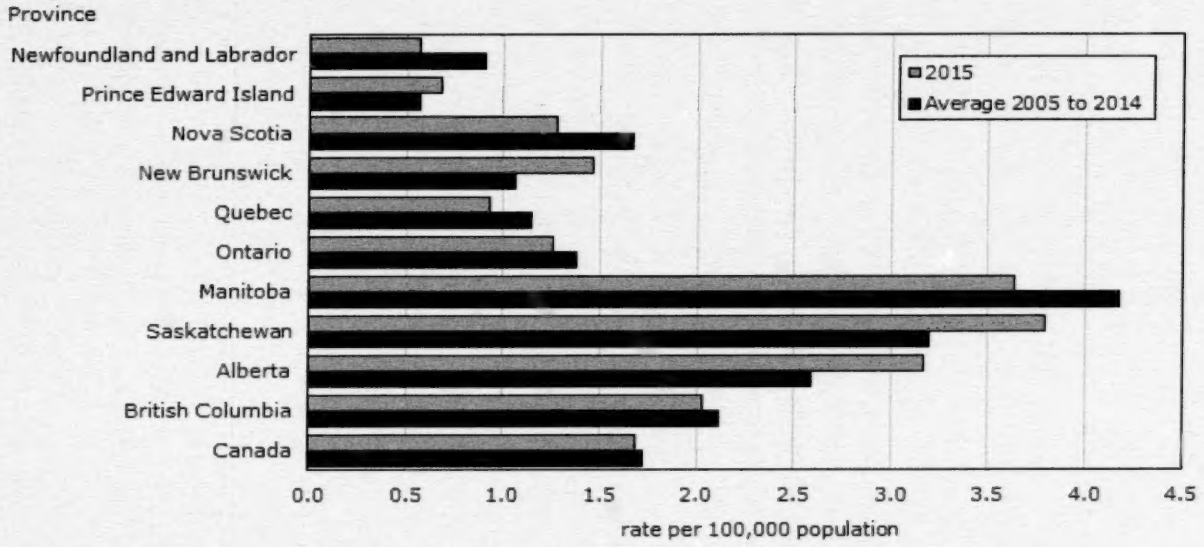
Charts

Chart 1
Homicides and attempted murders, Canada, 1965 to 2015



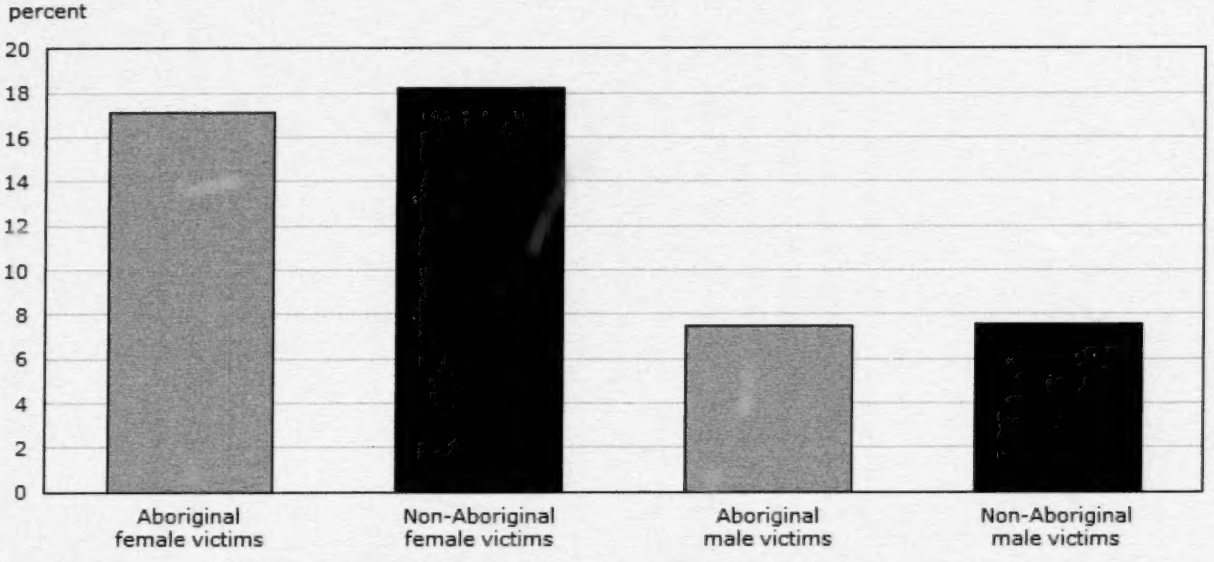
Note: Additional data are available on CANSIM (252-0051). Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Chart 2
Homicides, by province, 2015



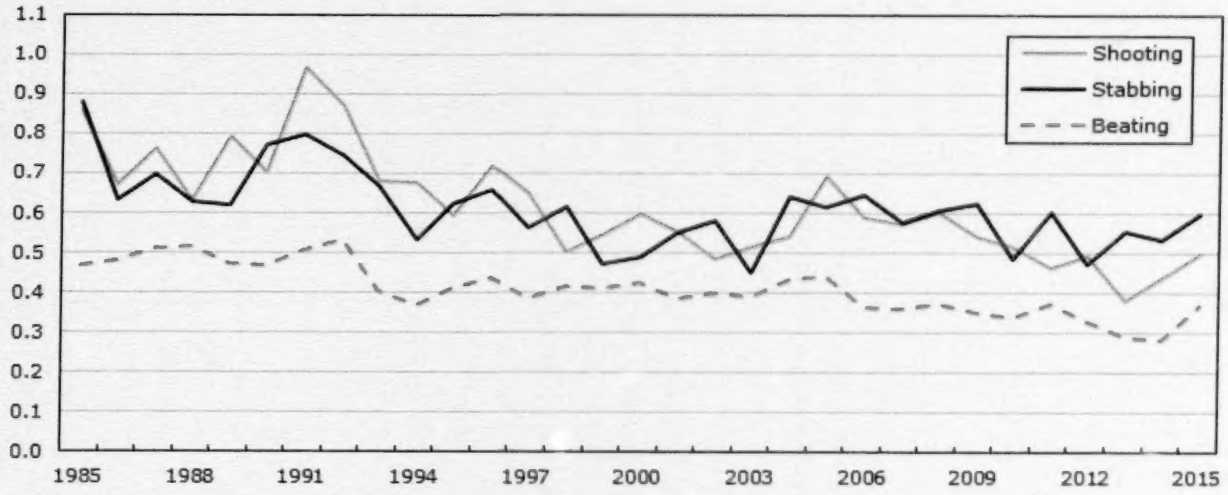
Note: Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Chart 3
Proportion of homicide victims by Aboriginal identity and sex, who were previously reported as a missing person, 2015



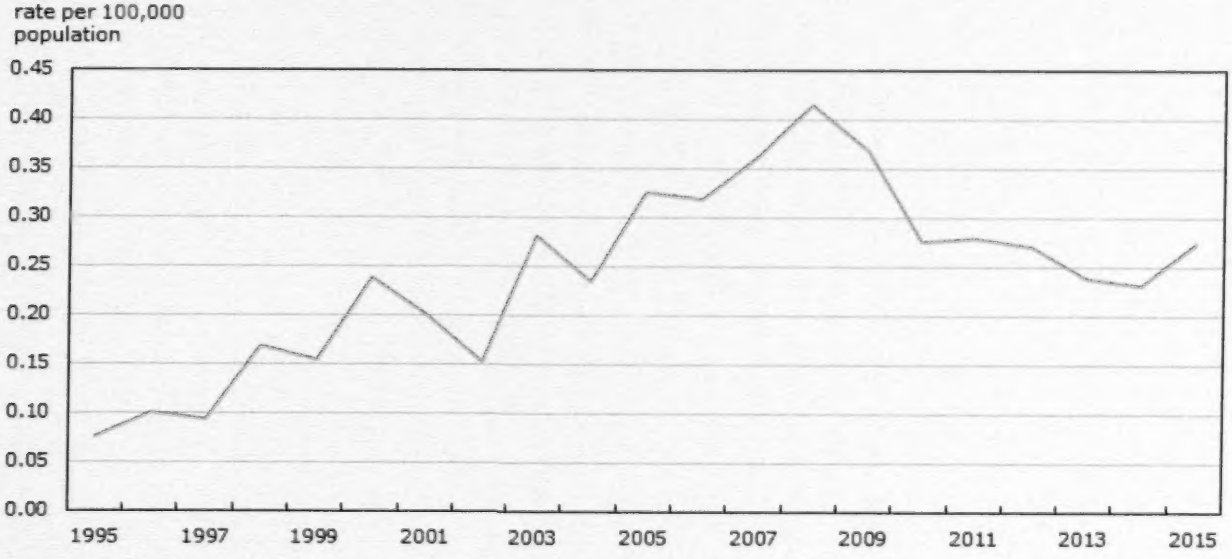
Note: These data became available in 2015. Police services are asked to indicate whether victims were reported as a missing person by any police service prior to the discovery of the homicide.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Chart 4
Homicides, by most common method, Canada, 1985 to 2015



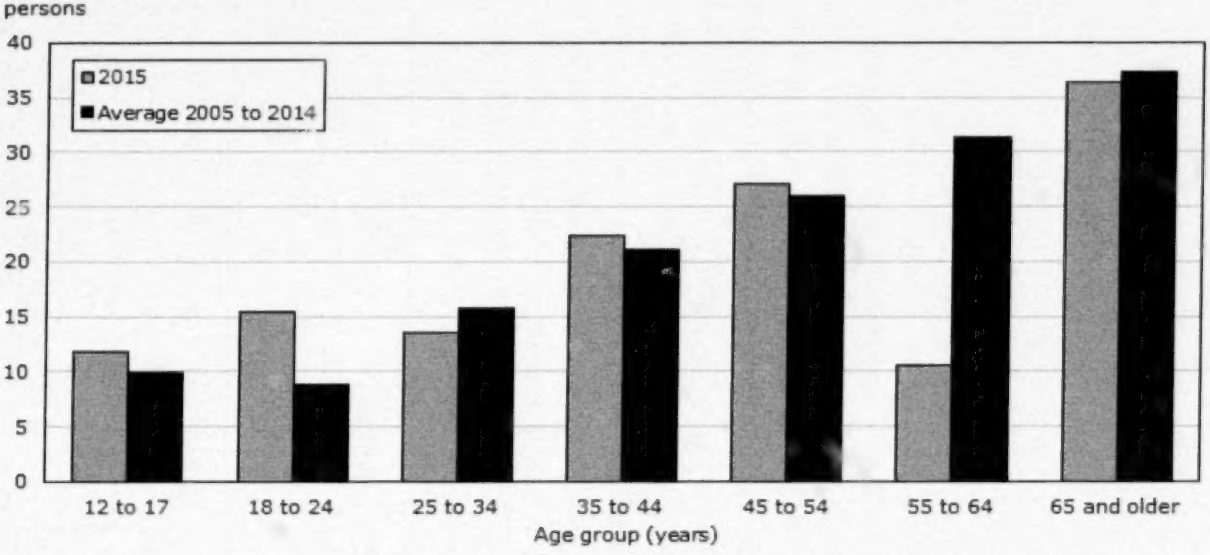
Note: Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Chart 5
Gang-related homicides, Canada, 1995 to 2015



Note: These data became available beginning in 1991. A homicide is classified as gang-related when police confirm or suspect that the accused person and/or the victim involved in the homicide was either a member, or a prospective member, of an organized crime group or street gang or was somehow associated with an organized crime group or street gang, and the homicide was carried out as a result of this association. Prior to 2005, police were asked if the homicide was "gang-related". Beginning in 2005, the question was amended to give police the option of specifying whether the homicide was: (a) confirmed as gang related or (b) suspected as being gang-related. As such, figures may be underestimated prior to 2005 due to suspected gang-related incidents that were excluded from the figures. Populations are based upon July 1st estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Chart 6
Persons accused of homicide with a suspected mental or development disorder, by age group, Canada, 2015



Note: Includes persons with a suspected mental or developmental disorder as a proportion of all accused within each age group. Excludes accused persons for which age or information on suspected mental or developmental disorder was unknown. In 2015, information on suspected mental or developmental disorder was unknown for 6% of accused persons.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

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Survey description

Homicide Survey

The Homicide Survey collects police-reported data on the characteristics of all homicide incidents, victims and accused persons in Canada. The Homicide Survey began collecting information on all murders in 1961 and was expanded in 1974 to include all incidents of manslaughter and infanticide. Although details on these incidents are not available prior to 1974, counts are available from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey and are included in the historical aggregate totals.

Whenever a homicide becomes known to police, the investigating police service completes the survey questionnaires, which are then sent to Statistics Canada. There are cases where homicides become known to police months or years after they occurred. These incidents are counted in the year in which they become known to police (based on the report date). Information on persons accused of homicide are only available for solved incidents (i.e., where at least one accused has been identified). Accused characteristics are updated as homicide cases are solved and new information is submitted to the Homicide Survey. Information collected through the victim and incident questionnaires is also accordingly updated as a result of a case being solved. For incidents involving more than one accused, only the relationship between the victim and the closest accused is recorded.

Due to revisions to the Homicide Survey database, annual data reported by the Homicide Survey prior to 2014 may not match the annual homicide counts reported by the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR). Data from the Homicide Survey is appended to the UCR database each year for the reporting of annual police reported crime statistics. Each reporting year, the UCR includes revised data reported by police for the previous survey year. In 2015, a review of data quality was undertaken for the Homicide Survey for all survey years from 1961 to 2014. The review included the collection of incident, victim and charged / suspect chargeable records that were previously unreported to the Homicide Survey. In addition, the database excludes deaths, and associated accused records, which are not deemed as homicides by police any longer (i.e., occurrences of self-defence, suicide, criminal negligence causing death which had originally been deemed, but no longer considered homicides, by police). For operational reasons, these revisions were not applied to the UCR Survey.

Population estimates

Denominators of homicide rates by Aboriginal identity for the years of 2001 to 2015 are based on population counts provided by the Demography Division of Statistics Canada (Statistics Canada 2015). Population counts prior to 2001 were not available for this *Juristat* release. In absence of the availability of annual estimates of the Canadian population by Aboriginal identity, the population counts used in this report are either derived or projected, depending on the years. As such, these population counts are subject to a certain level of uncertainty, and subject to revisions in the future. Between the years of 2001 and 2011, population counts were calculated using linear interpolations between the 2001 and 2006 censuses of population and the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS), adjusted for net under coverage, partially enumerated reserves, and populations living in collective dwellings. For the years 2012 to 2015, population counts were obtained from custom projections based on the adjusted 2011 NHS. The selected projections assumptions regarding components of growth are mostly based on the reference scenario of "Projections of the Aboriginal Population and Households in Canada, 2011 to 2036", with further calibrations to adjust for fertility, mortality, immigration and emigration, taken from the population estimates from 2012 to 2015. Population counts were selected for the mid-point of the year.

Notes

1. For more information regarding police-reported violent *Criminal Code* incidents see CANSIM table 252-0051.

2. In this report, the term "homicide" is used to refer to each single victim of homicide. For instance, a single incident can have more than one victim and for the purpose of this report, each victim would be counted as a homicide.

3. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data.

4. There are 33 census metropolitan areas (CMAs) in Canada. For the purposes of this report, Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA, and Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

5. For 2014 and 2015, excludes 1% of victims where the Aboriginal identity was reported as unknown.

6. Population counts were provided by Statistics Canada's Demography Division. The counts for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations are based on Aboriginal identity. For the years 2001 to 2011, they are derived from an interpolation between the censuses of population and the National Household Survey adjusted for net under coverage, partially

enumerated reserves, and populations living in collective dwellings. The population counts from 2012 to 2015 are based on custom population projections. Refer to the 'Survey description' section of this report for further information.

7. Excludes close to 2% of accused persons where Aboriginal identity was reported as unknown in 2015. Multiple accused persons may be involved in a single incident of homicide.

8. Violent firearms offences collected by the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) include: discharging a firearm with intent, using a firearm in the commission of an offence, and pointing a firearm. Incidents involving a violent firearm violation as well as a more serious *Criminal Code* violation, such as homicide or robbery, would be reported as these more serious violations and not as firearms offences.

9. A homicide is classified as gang-related when police confirm or suspect that the accused person and/or victim involved in the homicide was either a member, or a prospective member, of an organized crime group or street gang or was somehow associated with an organized crime group or street gang, and the homicide was carried out as a result of this association. Prior to 2005, police were asked if the homicide was "gang-related". Beginning in 2005, the question was amended to give police the option of specifying whether the homicide was: (a) confirmed as gang-related or (b) suspected as being gang-related.

10. Excludes 8% of homicides where the gang-related status was reported as unknown in 2015.

11. A solved homicide is one that police have cleared either by laying or recommending a homicide charge or cleared by other means (e.g., suicide of the accused).

12. For homicides involving more than one accused, only the relationship between the victim and the closest accused is recorded.

13. Excludes 1% of incidents involving adults aged 18 and older where the gang-related status of the incident was reported as unknown.

14. The Homicide Survey has collected information regarding the suspected presence of mental or developmental disorders among persons accused of homicide since 1997. Includes disorders such as: schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, dementia, developmental delays, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, etc. This information is based upon police officer assessment and may not reflect medical or clinical diagnoses.

15. Excludes 5% of accused persons for which information on suspected mental or developmental disorder was unknown in 2014, and 6% in 2015. Comparisons to the previous ten years from 2005 to 2014 excludes 19% of accused persons for whom this information was reported unknown.

16. Male victims were not included in the analysis because Aboriginal identity is incomplete for male victims prior to 2014. Aboriginal identity for female victims was updated in the Homicide Survey database with supplementary data the Royal Canadian Mounted Police used for the report *Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women: A National Operational Overview* (Royal Canadian Mounted Police 2014).

17. Includes homicides with a known accused.

18. Seven victim records were removed from the special analysis due to a lack of detailed information provided on the narratives provided by police. The police reported narrative is an optional write-in field collected by the Homicide Survey. As such, this number may not match other published numbers of total female victims of casual acquaintance homicides from 1980 to 2015.

19. Aboriginal identity was reported as unknown for 12 homicides.

20. A subset (n=100) of the 748 incidents deemed in-scope for these special analyses were coded independently and compared for interrater reliability. The results of this verification indicate that in the majority of the cases (98%), the raters selected the same coding based on the assessment of details for the accused-victim relationship reported on the narratives. This indicates a high level of quality for the coding of these cases.

21. The victim and accused were not always reported as consuming intoxicating substances in each other's company, but in all cases they were reported to be at the same location (i.e., house, bar) consuming intoxicating substances prior to the homicide.

22. These percentages include only those victims who left in the company of the closest accused. Instances where the accused followed the victim without her knowledge are excluded.

23. This also includes individuals who were temporarily living with the victim in other types of arrangements, and with whom there was no prior direct relationship (e.g., accused was a friend of a friend who was temporarily living with the victim).

24. In addition to hospitals, "institutional settings" also includes long-term care facilities, mental health facilities, and prisons/jails.

25. These are considered 'close friend' relationship types. Examples of relationships when the accused is the partner or ex-partner of a family member includes where: the accused is the victim's daughter's ex-boyfriend, or the accused is the victim's sister's current boyfriend.

26. The accused in these relationships is a current or former spouse, partner, or lover, and the victim is or was in a sexual relationship with the accused's current or former spouse, partner or lover (e.g., the accused is in a relationship and kills the former lover of her current partner).

27. The terms 'solved' and 'cleared' are used synonymously in this report to describe homicide incidents where police investigation has led to the identification of an accused person (charged/suspect-chargeable) whether a charge has been laid or recommended, or in cases where the incident is cleared by other means. The term 'cleared' is widely recognized by North American and international law enforcement agencies. For further information regarding police-reported clearance rates please refer to the *Juristat* report, "Police-reported clearance rates in Canada, 2010" (Hotton Mahony and Turner 2012).

Detailed data tables

Table 1a
Number of homicides, by province or territory, 1985 to 2015

Year	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.[1]	Y.T.	N.W.T.[2]	Nvt.	Canada	Difference in Canada number from previous year
	number of victims														
1985[3]	5	1	26	14	219	193	26	28	63	113	6	10	...	704	...
1986	4	0	15	12	155	139	47	26	64	88	3	14	...	567	-137
1987	5	0	14	20	174	204	44	30	73	78	0	2	...	644	77
1988	7	1	11	8	154	186	30	23	66	80	1	8	...	575	-69
1989	5	1	16	19	213	175	42	22	67	85	2	7	...	654	79
1990	0	1	8	11	184	182	38	36	74	110	1	12	...	657	3
1991	10	2	21	17	180	246	42	21	83	129	0	3	...	754	97
1992	2	0	21	11	166	243	29	32	92	122	2	13	...	733	-21
1993	7	2	19	11	159	192	31	30	49	119	0	7	...	626	-107
1994	4	1	19	14	126	193	29	24	66	113	3	4	...	596	-30
1995	5	1	17	13	135	181	26	21	60	121	4	3	...	587	-9
1996	7	1	18	9	154	188	45	32	51	125	0	4	...	634	47
1997	7	0	24	8	131	179	31	25	61	116	1	3	...	586	-48
1998	7	1	24	5	137	157	33	33	64	90	3	5	...	559	-27
1999	2	1	14	9	137	162	26	13	61	110	1	1	2	539	-20
2000	6	3	16	10	147	158	30	26	59	85	2	1	3	546	7
2001	1	2	9	8	140	171	34	26	69	85	1	4	3	553	7
2002	2	1	10	9	117	178	36	27	70	126	0	4	2	582	29
2003	5	1	8	8	101	178	44	41	63	94	1	4	3	551	-31
2004	2	0	14	7	111	188	50	39	86	113	7	4	4	625	74
2005	11	0	21	10	100	219	49	42	108	101	1	0	2	664	39
2006	7	1	16	7	93	195	40	42	95	109	0	0	2	607	-57
2007	3	0	13	8	91	202	62	30	88	87	2	2	7	595	-12
2008	5	2	12	3	92	176	54	30	110	117	3	3	4	611	16
2009	1	0	15	12	87	179	57	36	96	117	2	2	6	610	-1
2010	4	0	22	9	85	189	45	33	76	83	1	1	6	554	-56
2011	4	1	22	8	105	163	53	38	113	88	0	3	7	605	51
2012	3	0	17	6	108	163	54	29	87	71	0	5	5	548	-57
2013	7	1	13	7	70	168	51	31	81	74	0	2	4	509	-39
2014	2	3	6	10	70	156	45	24	106	89	3	3	4	521	12
2015	3	1	12	11	77	174	47	43	133	95	1	5	2	604	83

... not applicable

1. As a result of investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 5 homicides reported in 2007, 5 reported in 2004, 7 reported in 2003, and 15 included in 2002 that occurred in previous years.
2. Includes Nunavut prior to 1999.
3. Excludes 329 victims in the Air India incident.

Note: There may be a small number of homicides in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which they are reported to Statistics Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 1b
Rate of homicides, by province or territory, 1985 to 2015

Year	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.[1]	Y.T.	N.W.T.[2]	Nvt.	Canada	Percent change in *rate for Canada* from previous year
	rate[3]														
1985[4]	0.86	0.78	2.94	1.93	3.29	2.08	2.40	2.73	2.62	3.80	24.63	18.38	...	2.72	...
1986	0.69	0.00	1.69	1.65	2.31	1.47	4.31	2.53	2.63	2.93	12.26	25.60	...	2.17	-20.3
1987	0.87	0.00	1.57	2.75	2.57	2.12	4.01	2.90	3.00	2.56	0.00	3.63	...	2.43	12.1
1988	1.22	0.77	1.23	1.10	2.25	1.89	2.72	2.24	2.69	2.57	3.76	14.37	...	2.15	-11.9
1989	0.87	0.77	1.77	2.58	3.07	1.73	3.81	2.16	2.69	2.66	7.38	12.27	...	2.40	11.7
1990	0.00	0.77	0.88	1.49	2.63	1.77	3.44	3.57	2.91	3.34	3.60	20.37	...	2.37	-1.0
1991	1.73	1.53	2.29	2.28	2.55	2.36	3.79	2.09	3.20	3.82	0.00	4.92	...	2.69	13.4
1992	0.34	0.00	2.28	1.47	2.34	2.30	2.61	3.19	3.49	3.52	6.64	20.86	...	2.58	-3.9
1993	1.21	1.51	2.06	1.47	2.22	1.80	2.77	2.98	1.84	3.34	0.00	11.04	...	2.18	-15.5
1994	0.70	0.75	2.05	1.87	1.75	1.78	2.58	2.38	2.44	3.07	10.10	6.15	...	2.06	-5.8
1995	0.88	0.74	1.83	1.73	1.87	1.65	2.30	2.07	2.19	3.20	13.14	4.52	...	2.00	-2.5
1996	1.25	0.74	1.93	1.20	2.13	1.70	3.07	3.14	1.84	3.23	0.00	5.93	...	2.14	6.9
1997	1.27	0.00	2.57	1.06	1.80	1.59	2.73	2.46	2.16	2.94	3.15	4.44	...	1.96	-8.5
1998	1.30	0.74	2.58	0.67	1.88	1.38	2.90	3.24	2.21	2.26	9.63	7.44	...	1.85	-5.4
1999	0.37	0.73	1.50	1.20	1.87	1.41	2.28	1.28	2.07	2.74	3.25	2.46	7.46	1.77	-4.4
2000	1.14	2.20	1.71	1.33	2.00	1.35	2.61	2.58	1.96	2.10	6.57	2.47	10.91	1.78	0.4
2001	0.19	1.46	0.97	1.07	1.89	1.44	2.95	2.60	2.26	2.09	3.32	9.79	10.66	1.78	0.2
2002	0.38	0.73	1.07	1.20	1.57	1.47	3.11	2.71	2.24	3.07	0.00	9.60	6.94	1.86	4.1
2003	0.96	0.73	0.85	1.07	1.35	1.45	3.78	4.11	1.98	2.28	3.23	9.40	10.23	1.74	-6.2
2004	0.39	0.00	1.49	0.93	1.47	1.52	4.26	3.91	2.65	2.72	22.24	9.24	13.40	1.96	12.4
2005	2.14	0.00	2.24	1.34	1.32	1.75	4.16	4.23	3.25	2.41	3.13	0.00	6.59	2.06	5.2
2006	1.37	0.73	1.71	0.94	1.22	1.54	3.38	4.23	2.78	2.57	0.00	0.00	6.49	1.86	-9.5
2007	0.59	0.00	1.39	1.07	1.18	1.58	5.21	2.99	2.50	2.03	6.14	4.61	22.30	1.81	-2.9
2008	0.98	1.44	1.28	0.40	1.19	1.37	4.51	2.95	3.06	2.69	9.07	6.92	12.54	1.84	1.6
2009	0.19	0.00	1.60	1.60	1.11	1.38	4.72	3.48	2.61	2.65	5.93	4.64	18.40	1.81	-1.3
2010	0.77	0.00	2.34	1.20	1.07	1.44	3.69	3.14	2.04	1.86	2.89	2.31	17.99	1.63	-10.2
2011	0.76	0.69	2.33	1.06	1.31	1.23	4.30	3.56	2.98	1.96	0.00	6.90	20.47	1.76	8.1
2012	0.57	0.00	1.80	0.79	1.34	1.22	4.32	2.67	2.24	1.56	0.00	11.46	14.40	1.58	-10.5
2013	1.33	0.69	1.38	0.93	0.86	1.24	4.03	2.80	2.02	1.61	0.00	4.56	11.29	1.45	-8.2
2014	0.38	2.05	0.64	1.33	0.85	1.14	3.51	2.14	2.57	1.92	8.11	6.82	11.09	1.47	1.2
2015	0.57	0.68	1.27	1.46	0.93	1.26	3.63	3.79	3.17	2.03	2.67	11.34	5.42	1.68	14.9

... not applicable

1. As a result of investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 5 homicides reported in 2007, 5 reported in 2004, 7 reported in 2003, and 15 included in 2002 that occurred in previous years.
2. Includes Nunavut prior to 1999.
3. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
4. Excludes 329 victims in the Air India incident.

Note: There may be a small number of homicides in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which they are reported to Statistics Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 2
Homicides, by census metropolitan area, 2014 and 2015

Census metropolitan area[1]	2015 population count	2015		2014[r]		Difference from 2014		Average 2005 to 2014	
	number	number of victims	rate[2]	number of victims	rate[2]	number of victims	percent change in rate	number of victims	rate[2]
Regina	242,714	8	3.30	5	2.09	3	57.4	7	3.37
Saskatoon	310,892	10	3.22	8	2.62	2	22.7	7	2.66
Edmonton	1,360,356	39	2.87	40	3.00	-1	-4.6	37	3.15
Winnipeg	808,028	22	2.72	27	3.42	-5	-20.3	29	3.80
Calgary	1,445,521	39	2.70	32	2.26	7	19.2	25	2.03
Thunder Bay	121,117	3	2.48	11	9.05	-8	-72.6	4	3.52
Saint John	127,249	3	2.36	3	2.35	0	0.5	2	1.32
Victoria	365,226	8	2.19	4	1.11	4	98.0	4	1.06
Halifax	417,868	8	1.91	5	1.21	3	58.4	10	2.42
Vancouver	2,505,033	47	1.88	46	1.86	1	1.0	49	2.11
Windsor	331,318	6	1.81	3	0.91	3	99.6	4	1.06
Kingston	166,348	3	1.80	0	0.00	3	...	2	1.06
Abbotsford–Mission	184,352	3	1.63	4	2.22	-1	-26.6	4	2.39
London	508,639	8	1.57	4	0.79	4	98.5	7	1.43
St. Catharines–Niagara	449,098	7	1.56	4	0.89	3	74.3	5	1.17
Guelph[3]	130,440	2	1.53	3	2.32	-1	-33.9	1	0.80
Kelowna[3]	196,026	3	1.53	3	1.58	0	-3.1	3	1.79
Barrie[3]	213,323	3	1.41	1	0.47	2	196.3	2	1.00
Toronto	6,059,112	82	1.35	82	1.37	0	-1.1	92	1.63
Trois-Rivières	155,534	2	1.29	3	1.94	-1	-33.6	2	1.00
Moncton[3]	156,163	2	1.28	3	1.94	-1	-34.0	1	0.88
Greater Sudbury	164,266	2	1.22	1	0.61	1	100.5	2	1.28
Montréal	4,065,823	47	1.16	38	0.94	9	22.7	48	1.26
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	542,511	6	1.11	3	0.56	3	98.5	5	0.99
St. John's	205,776	2	0.97	1	0.49	1	99.3	2	0.78
Hamilton	752,088	7	0.93	10	1.34	-3	-30.7	9	1.30
Peterborough[3]	122,304	1	0.82	1	0.82	0	-0.2	1	1.01
Ottawa[4]	996,621	7	0.70	7	0.71	0	-1.0	11	1.18
Saguenay	167,507	1	0.60	0	0.00	1	...	1	0.71
Sherbrooke	198,881	1	0.50	0	0.00	1	...	1	0.38
Oshawa	429,782	2	0.47	0	0.00	2	...	3	0.75
Gatineau[5]	328,101	1	0.30	4	1.23	-3	-75.2	4	1.34
Québec	799,963	2	0.25	4	0.50	-2	-50.3	4	0.58
Brantford[3]	144,640	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	...	1	0.88
CMA total	**25,172,620**	**387**	**1.54**	**360**	**1.45**	**27**	**6.3**	**388**	**1.67**
Non-CMA total[6]	**10,679,154**	**217**	**2.03**	**161**	**1.51**	**56**	**34.5**	**194**	**1.84**
Canada	**35,851,774**	**604**	**1.68**	**521**	**1.47**	**83**	**14.9**	**582**	**1.72**

... not applicable

[r] revised

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.
2. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
3. Moncton, Peterborough, Brantford, Guelph, Barrie, and Kelowna became CMAs in 2006. As such, the average number and rate are calculated from 2006 to 2014.
4. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.
5. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.
6. Includes three homicides committed in a correctional institution in 2014 and 2015.

Note: There may be a small number of homicides included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which they are reported to Statistics Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 3
Rates of homicide victims and accused persons, by sex and Aboriginal identity, province or territory, 2015

	Male homicide victims				Female homicide victims				Total homicide victims[1]			
	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
Province or territory	number	rate[2]	number	rate[3]	number	rate[2]	number	rate[3]	number	rate[2]	number	rate[3]
Newfoundland and Labrador	0	0.00	2	0.84	1	5.05	0	0.00	1	2.52	2	0.41
Prince Edward Island	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	1.41	0	0.00	1	0.72
Nova Scotia	1	5.18	6	1.35	0	0.00	4	0.87	1	2.55	10	1.11
New Brunswick	0	0.00	6	1.68	0	0.00	5	1.37	0	0.00	11	1.52
Quebec	4	4.38	55	1.37	2	2.19	16	0.39	6	3.28	71	0.88
Ontario	10	5.41	110	1.66	3	1.55	46	0.67	13	3.44	156	1.16
Manitoba	28	25.17	9	1.70	7	6.10	3	0.56	35	15.49	12	1.13
Saskatchewan	25	27.45	6	1.27	4	4.20	8	1.73	29	15.56	14	1.50
Alberta	22	16.18	65	3.28	16	11.60	29	1.50	38	13.87	94	2.40
British Columbia	13	9.79	57	2.60	5	3.69	20	0.90	18	6.71	77	1.74
Yukon	0	0.00	1	6.54	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	3.40
Northwest Territories	3	25.85	0	0.00	2	17.05	0	0.00	5	21.43	0	0.00
Nunavut	1	6.14	0	0.00	1	6.38	0	0.00	2	6.26	0	0.00
Canada	**107**	**12.85**	**317**	**1.87**	**41**	**4.80**	**132**	**0.77**	**148**	**8.77**	**449**	**1.31**

	Male accused persons				Female accused persons				Total accused persons[1]			
	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal	
Province or territory	number	rate[2]	number	rate[3]	number	rate[2]	number	rate[3]	number	rate[2]	number	rate[3]
Newfoundland and Labrador	1	5.05	2	0.84	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	2.52	2	0.41
Prince Edward Island	0	0.00	1	1.46	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.72
Nova Scotia	1	5.18	7	1.57	0	0.00	1	0.22	1	2.55	8	0.89
New Brunswick	1	7.64	12	3.36	0	0.00	1	0.27	1	3.80	13	1.80
Quebec	4	4.38	42	1.05	2	2.19	4	0.10	6	3.28	46	0.57
Ontario	21	11.36	131	1.98	6	3.10	14	0.20	27	7.14	145	1.08
Manitoba	27	24.27	10	1.89	5	4.36	1	0.19	32	14.16	11	1.04
Saskatchewan	33	36.24	10	2.12	7	7.34	0	0.00	40	21.46	10	1.07
Alberta	34	25.00	55	2.78	11	7.98	1	0.05	45	16.43	56	1.43
British Columbia	9	6.78	51	2.33	3	2.21	2	0.09	12	4.47	53	1.20
Yukon	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Northwest Territories	1	8.62	0	0.00	3	25.58	0	0.00	4	17.14	0	0.00
Nunavut	2	12.28	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	6.26	0	0.00
Canada	**134**	**16.09**	**321**	**1.90**	**37**	**4.33**	**24**	**0.14**	**171**	**10.13**	**345**	**1.01**

1. Total homicide victims and accused persons excludes where the Aboriginal identity was reported as unknown by police (i.e., 1% of victims and 2% of accused persons in 2015).
2. Rates are calculated per 100,000 Aboriginal population, by sex and geographical area. Refer to the 'Survey description' section of this report for further information.
3. Rates are calculated per 100,000 non-Aboriginal population, by sex and geographical area. Refer to the 'Survey description' section of this report for further information.

Note: Population counts were provided by Statistics Canada's Demography Division. The counts for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations are based on Aboriginal identity; for the years 2001 to 2011, they are derived from an interpolation between the censuses of population and the National Household Survey adjusted for net under coverage, partially enumerated reserves, and populations living in collective dwellings; the population counts from 2012 to 2015 are based on custom population projections. Refer to the 'Survey description' section of this report for further information.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 4
Homicides, by shootings and stabbings, by province or territory, 2015

Shootings

Province or territory	2015 number of victims	2015 rate[1]	2015 percent of total homicides[2]	2014[r] number of victims	2014[r] rate[1]	2014[r] percent of total homicides[2]	Average 2005 to 2014 average number	Average 2005 to 2014 rate[1]	Average 2005 to 2014 percent of total homicides[2]
Newfoundland and Labrador	1	0.19	33.3	1	0.19	50.0	2	0.39	43.5
Prince Edward Island	0	0.00	0.0	2	1.37	66.7	0	0.14	25.0
Nova Scotia	3	0.32	25.0	2	0.21	33.3	5	0.56	34.0
New Brunswick	3	0.40	27.3	4	0.53	40.0	2	0.31	28.8
Quebec	27	0.33	36.0	28	0.34	40.0	30	0.38	33.4
Ontario	49	0.36	28.2	46	0.34	30.3	60	0.46	33.6
Manitoba	7	0.54	15.6	4	0.31	9.1	9	0.76	18.6
Saskatchewan	11	0.97	25.6	4	0.36	16.7	6	0.55	17.6
Alberta	49	1.17	39.2	36	0.87	36.0	29	0.78	31.0
British Columbia	26	0.56	29.9	27	0.58	31.4	33	0.75	37.1
Yukon	1	2.67	100.0	0	0.00	0.0	0	0.29	9.1
Northwest Territories	1	2.27	20.0	0	0.00	0.0	0	0.69	15.0
Nunavut	0	0.00	0.0	1	2.77	25.0	2	4.84	34.0
Canada	**178**	**0.50**	**30.5**	**155**	**0.44**	**30.6**	**178**	**0.53**	**31.3**

Stabbings

Province or territory	2015 number of victims	2015 rate[1]	2015 percent of total homicides[2]	2014[r] number of victims	2014[r] rate[1]	2014[r] percent of total homicides[2]	Average 2005 to 2014 average number	Average 2005 to 2014 rate[1]	Average 2005 to 2014 percent of total homicides[2]
Newfoundland and Labrador	2	0.38	66.7	1	0.19	50.0	1	0.23	26.1
Prince Edward Island	0	0.00	0.0	1	0.68	33.3	0	0.14	25.0
Nova Scotia	4	0.42	33.3	2	0.21	33.3	5	0.49	29.5
New Brunswick	6	0.80	54.5	2	0.27	20.0	3	0.39	36.3
Quebec	29	0.35	38.7	21	0.26	30.0	27	0.34	30.2
Ontario	65	0.47	37.4	58	0.42	38.2	58	0.44	32.5
Manitoba	20	1.55	44.4	25	1.95	56.8	21	1.72	42.0
Saskatchewan	14	1.23	32.6	9	0.80	37.5	15	1.38	43.9
Alberta	42	1.00	33.6	34	0.83	34.0	34	0.93	36.9
British Columbia	28	0.60	32.2	32	0.69	37.2	27	0.62	30.6
Yukon	0	0.00	0.0	2	5.41	66.7	0	1.17	36.4
Northwest Territories	3	6.80	60.0	1	2.27	50.0	1	1.84	40.0
Nunavut	1	2.71	50.0	1	2.77	25.0	1	3.93	27.7
Canada	**214**	**0.60**	**36.6**	**189**	**0.53**	**37.4**	**193**	**0.57**	**34.0**

[r] revised

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
2. Homicides where the cause of death was unknown were excluded from the calculation of percentages.

Note: There may be a small number of homicides included in a given year's total that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which they are reported to Statistics Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 5
Firearm-related homicides, by type of firearm, Canada, 1995 to 2015

	Handgun		Rifle or shotgun		Sawed-off rifle or shotgun		Other firearm types[2]		Total firearm-related homicides	
Year	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]	number	rate[1]
1995	95	0.32	62	0.21	15	0.05	2	0.01	174	0.59
1996	108	0.36	81	0.27	16	0.05	8	0.03	213	0.72
1997	100	0.33	77	0.26	10	0.03	7	0.02	194	0.65
1998	71	0.24	51	0.17	14	0.05	16	0.05	152	0.50
1999	90	0.30	58	0.19	6	0.02	12	0.04	166	0.55
2000	108	0.35	57	0.19	10	0.03	8	0.03	183	0.60
2001	111	0.36	46	0.15	7	0.02	8	0.03	172	0.55
2002	98	0.31	40	0.13	6	0.02	8	0.03	152	0.48
2003	111	0.35	33	0.10	13	0.04	6	0.02	163	0.52
2004	112	0.35	37	0.12	15	0.05	9	0.03	173	0.54
2005	131	0.41	59	0.18	11	0.03	23	0.07	224	0.69
2006	112	0.34	38	0.12	26	0.08	16	0.05	192	0.59
2007	125	0.38	32	0.10	18	0.05	13	0.04	188	0.57
2008	126	0.38	35	0.11	17	0.05	22	0.07	200	0.60
2009	111	0.33	32	0.10	15	0.04	24	0.07	182	0.54
2010	103	0.30	37	0.11	14	0.04	21	0.06	175	0.51
2011	95	0.28	30	0.09	16	0.05	18	0.05	159	0.46
2012	106	0.31	39	0.11	9	0.03	17	0.05	171	0.49
2013	90	0.26	30	0.09	8	0.02	6	0.02	134	0.38
2014	104	0.29	34	0.10	6	0.02	11	0.03	155	0.44
2015	101	0.28	37	0.10	23	0.06	17	0.05	178	0.50

1. Rates are calculated per 100,000 population using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
2. Includes homicides committed with the use of other types of firearms, such as fully-automatic firearms or firearm-like weapons (i.e., nail gun or pellet gun).
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 6
Homicides, by gang-related and firearm-related status and census metropolitan area, 2015

Census metropolitan area[1]	Gang-related[2]		Firearm-related[3]		Total reported homicides
	number	percent[4]	number	percent[5]	number
St. John's	0	0.0	1	50.0	2
Halifax	0	0.0	2	28.6	8
Moncton	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Saint John	0	0.0	1	33.3	3
Saguenay	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Québec	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Sherbrooke	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Trois-Rivières	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Montréal	20	42.6	20	42.6	47
Gatineau[6]	0	0.0	1	100.0	1
Ottawa[7]	2	28.6	3	42.9	7
Kingston	0	0.0	1	33.3	3
Peterborough	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Oshawa	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Toronto	12	16.7	27	33.3	82
Hamilton	2	28.6	3	42.9	7
St. Catharines–Niagara	0	0.0	0	0.0	7
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	1	16.7	2	33.3	6
Brantford	0	...	0	...	0
Guelph	0	0.0	1	50.0	2
London	2	28.6	3	42.9	8
Windsor	0	0.0	2	33.3	6
Barrie	0	0.0	0	0.0	3
Greater Sudbury	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Thunder Bay	0	0.0	0	0.0	3
Winnipeg	3	13.6	5	22.7	22
Regina	2	25.0	2	25.0	8
Saskatoon	2	20.0	4	40.0	10
Calgary	12	31.6	16	44.4	39
Edmonton	6	17.1	15	44.1	39
Kelowna	0	0.0	0	0.0	3
Abbotsford–Mission	1	33.3	1	33.3	3
Vancouver	13	27.7	15	32.6	47
Victoria	0	0.0	0	0.0	8
CMA total	**78**	**21.1**	**125**	**33.7**	**387**
Non-CMA total	**20**	**9.5**	**53**	**25.6**	**217**
Canada	**98**	**16.9**	**178**	**30.8**	**604**

... not applicable

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000 of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, other adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service.
2. A homicide is classified as gang-related when police confirm or suspect that the accused person and/or victim involved in the homicide was either a member, or a prospective member, of an organized crime group or street gang or was somehow associated with an organized crime group or street gang, and the homicide was carried out as a result of this association.
3. Includes fully automatic firearms, handguns (semi-automatic guns and revolvers), rifles, shotguns and sawed-off rifles/sawed-off shotguns and other firearm-like weapons (e.g., zip guns, flare guns, nail guns, pellet rifles/pistols, etc.).
4. Excludes homicides where the gang-related status was reported as unknown.
5. Excludes homicides where the weapon used to kill the victim was reported as unknown.
6. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.
7. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau CMA.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 7
Homicides, by closest accused to victim relationship, Canada, 2014 and 2015

Relationship type[1] (victim killed by)	2015			2014[r]			Average 2005 to 2014	
	number of victims	percent[2]	rate	number of victims	percent[2]	rate	number of victims	percent[2]
Family relationship	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Spousal relationship	**64**	**14.2**	**...**	**65**	**15.7**	**...**	**66**	**14.5**
Legal husband/wife	17	3.8	...	22	5.3	...	24	5.3
Common-law husband/wife	28	6.2	...	26	6.3	...	27	5.8
Separated or divorced husband/wife	3	0.7	...	11	2.7	...	8	1.8
Separated common-law husband/wife	15	3.3	...	5	1.2	...	6	1.3
Same-sex spouse[3]	1	0.2	...	1	0.2	...	1	0.3
Other family relationship[4]	**99**	**22.0**	**...**	**73**	**17.7**	**...**	**83**	**18.1**
Father or mother	23	5.1	...	19	4.6	...	26	5.7
Son or daughter	27	6.0	...	31	7.5	...	25	5.4
Sibling	12	2.7	...	6	1.5	...	10	2.2
Extended family[5]	37	8.2	...	17	4.1	...	23	4.9
Intimate relationship (non-spousal)[6]	**19**	**4.2**	**...**	**21**	**5.1**	**...**	**22**	4.9
Intimate partner relationship (Spousal and non-spousal intimate relationships)[7]	**83**	**18.4**	**0.28**	**86**	**20.8**	**0.29**	**88**	**19.4**
Acquaintance	**156**	**34.7**	**0.44**	**152**	**36.8**	**0.43**	**160**	**35.1**
Close friend	31	6.9	...	21	5.1	...	33	7.1
Neighbour	16	3.6	...	7	1.7	...	14	3.0
Authority figure	1	0.2	...	6	1.5	...	3	0.6
Business relationship (legal)	9	2.0	...	11	2.7	...	8	1.6
Casual acquaintance	99	22.0	...	107	25.9	...	104	22.8
Criminal relationship[8]	**54**	**12.0**	**0.15**	**29**	**7.0**	**0.08**	**47**	**10.4**
Stranger	**58**	**12.9**	**0.16**	**73**	**17.7**	**0.21**	**78**	**17.0**
Unknown relationship	**1**	**...**	**...**	**1**	**...**	**...**	**4**	**...**
Total solved homicides[9]	**451**	**100.0**	**...**	**414**	**100.0**	**...**	**460**	**100.0**
Unsolved homicides	153	...	...	107	...	...	122	...
Total homicides	**604**	**...**	**...**	**521**	**...**	**...**	**582**	**...**

... not applicable

[r] revised

1. Includes homicides with a known accused. If there were more than one accused, only the closest relationship to the victim was recorded.
2. Solved homicides where the type of relationship was unknown are excluded from the calculation of percentages.
3. Includes current and former same-sex spouses.
4. Includes biological, adopted, step, and foster relationships.
5. Includes nieces, nephews, grandchildren, uncles, aunts, cousins, in-laws, etc., related by blood, marriage (including common-law) or adoption.
6. Includes dating relationships (current and former) and other intimate relationships.
7. Includes current and former same-sex and opposite-sex spouses, common-law partners, dating partners, and other intimate relationships. Intimate partner homicide rates are calculated per 100,000 population 15 years and older using revised July 1st population estimates from Statistics Canada, Demography Division.
8. Includes, for example, sex workers, drug dealers and their clients, loan sharks, or gang members. When more than one relationship applies (e.g., criminal relationship and close friend), police are asked to report the primary relationship.
9. Includes homicides with a known accused.

Note: The sum of averages may not add up to the total average due to rounding. Percentages may not add up due to rounding. Figures prior to 2014 may differ from previously published figures due to ongoing updates to the data files as new information becomes available

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 8
Detailed circumstances of homicides committed by 'casual acquaintances' involving female victims, by Aboriginal identity, 1980 to 2015

Relationship type[1] (victim killed by)	Female victims of 'casual acquaintance' homicides							
	Aboriginal		Non-Aboriginal		Unknown		Total	
	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent	number	percent
Homicides re-coded to pre-existing relationship types[2]	**21**	**11.9**	**103**	**18.4**	**2**	**16.7**	**126**	**16.8**
Family member[3]	4	2.3	2	0.4	0	0.0	6	0.8
Ex-boyfriend/girlfriend	0	0.0	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.1
Close friend	2	1.1	12	2.1	0	0.0	14	1.9
Neighbour[4]	1	0.6	31	5.5	0	0.0	32	4.3
Authority figure	1	0.6	6	1.1	0	0.0	7	0.9
Extra-marital lover	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	8.3	1	0.1
Other intimate relationship	6	3.4	16	2.9	0	0.0	22	2.9
Business relationship	3	1.7	15	2.7	0	0.0	18	2.4
Criminal relationship	4	2.3	19	3.4	1	8.3	24	3.2
Stranger	0	0.0	1	0.2	0	0.0	1	0.1
Homicides re-coded to new relationship types	**88**	**49.7**	**170**	**30.4**	**6**	**50.0**	**264**	**35.3**
Other non-family household member[5]	6	3.4	32	5.7	3	25.0	41	5.5
Other institutional member[6]	2	1.1	25	4.5	2	16.7	29	3.9
Partner or ex-partner of family member	5	2.8	15	2.7	0	0.0	20	2.7
Partner or ex-partner of victim's current or former sexual partner	6	3.4	8	1.4	0	0.0	14	1.9
Reverse authority figure[7]	1	0.6	8	1.4	0	0.0	9	1.2
Co-substance user[8]	67	37.9	68	12.2	1	8.3	136	18.2
Family friend[9]	0	0.0	8	1.4	0	0.0	8	1.1
Casual friend[10]	1	0.6	6	1.1	0	0.0	7	0.9
Total homicides which remained reported as 'casual acquaintance'[11]	**68**	**38.4**	**286**	**51.2**	**4**	**33.3**	**358**	**47.9**
Total 'casual acquaintance' homicides	**177**	**100.0**	**559**	**100.0**	**12**	**100.0**	**748**	**100.0**

1. Includes homicides with a known accused. If there were more than one accused, only the closest relationship to the victim was recorded.
2. The Homicide Survey has undergone changes over the years, including changes to relationship types. Changes to relationship codes occurred in 1991, 1997 and 2015. Historical data is not routinely altered to fit a new relationship type when new response options are implemented. In many instances where the closest accused-victim relationship could better be described by an existing relationship type on the Homicide Survey, the 'better' relationship type did not exist at the time of the original survey submission. The 'existing' relationship types are those that are currently available in the Homicide Survey as of the 2015 reporting year. Approximately 10% of the 126 homicides which could be better described by pre-existing relationship types could also be described by new special analysis relationship types. The Homicide Survey closest accused-victim relationship structure is based on a hierarchy from closest to farthest from the victim. Any pre-existing relationship types on the questionnaire which can describe historical homicides committed by 'casual acquaintances' were considered higher within the hierarchy.
3. Includes homicides where the victim was killed by a father, step-mother and 'other' family member.
4. The definition of 'neighbour' collected by the Homicide Survey indicates that the accused and victim: must have lived in close proximity to each other, must have known one another, and must have encountered one another on at least an infrequent basis. In order to better contextualize the relationship between accused and victim for this special project, the definition of 'neighbour' was expanded to include cases in which it was not known whether the victim and accused had known each other prior to the homicide but they lived in close proximity to each other.
5. Includes roommates or boarders who were not paying rent, or "couch surfers".
6. Includes homicides where the accused and victim were residents within the same institution. Includes, for example, residents of psychiatric hospitals, convalescence and long term care facilities ('old age' homes), and regular hospitals.
7. Includes homicides where the victim is a person who is in a position of trust or authority to the accused and is not a family member. Examples include relationships such as student-to-teacher, patient-to-doctor, teen-to-youth counsellors/group home workers, prisoner-to guard.
8. Includes homicides were the relationship is based solely on co-consumption of alcohol, drugs or other intoxicating substances immediately prior to the homicide. Includes, for example, acquaintance relationships initiated at house parties, bars, bush parties or during substance abuse on the street.
9. Includes homicides where the accused was a friend of a family member of the victim. For example, an accused who was friends with the victim's father.
10. Includes homicides where the accused was a casual friend of the victim; who for example was a peer who was reported as a friend in the police-reported Homicide Survey narrative or elsewhere on the survey, but did not meet the definition of 'close friend'.
11. Includes homicides where the relationship of the accused to the victim did not change, either because the information provided in the narratives was sufficient to conclude that the relationship was best described as 'casual acquaintance', or because the narrative did not offer sufficient details to determine the nature of the relationship between accused and victim.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.